

ULTRA-LIGHTWEIGHT PRECISION AERIAL DELIVERY SYSTEMS (ULW PADS)

DESCRIPTION

The Ultra Light Weight Precision Airdrop System (ULW PADS) is an increment of the family of Global Positioning System guided parachute delivery systems. The JPADS family are steerable, extended glide aerial delivery systems that can deliver critical supplies and equipment when precision and standoff are required due to ground threat, terrain, or winds. The program goal is to assemble a family of guided parachute systems of varying cargo weight capacities, standoff distances, and rates of descent that will offer flexibility to both the air delivery unit and the regional combatant commander. ULW PADS provides a capability not currently existing. It is an airdrop capability that satisfies four identified primary needs/”gaps” in the joint airdrop functional area. These are the need for: 1) increased air carrier survivability; 2) increased ground accuracy; 3) standoff delivery; and 4) improved effectiveness/assessment feedback regarding airdrop mission operations.

OPERATIONAL IMPACT

The precision air delivery capability has been demonstrated in Iraq and Afghanistan and proven a viable alternative to ground transportation. The capability allows sustainment to geographically isolated units or units within a high IED threat area. This capability will enable Marine reconnaissance units to conduct clandestine resupply without compro-

ming their position. The Marine Corps has taken advantage of currently available parachute technology and significantly increased the amount of offset available for aircraft conducting aerial delivery. This will allow aircraft to conduct resupply mission while avoiding potential surface to air threats. The ULW PADS will be used in littoral combat operations in support the warfighting concepts of Operational Maneuver from the Sea, Ship to Objective Maneuver and Distributed Operations.

PROGRAM STATUS

The ULW PADS is in the system development and demonstration phase of the acquisition life cycle. During fiscal year 2008-2009, Marine Corps Systems Command in conjunction with the Marine Corps Operational Test and Evaluation Activity will be conducting performance testing and Field Users Evaluation to determine its ability to meet all performance requirements. Procurement of production systems will be in mid-fiscal year 2009 based on successful evaluation/testing. Fielding of the ULW PADS is planned to begin in third quarter of fiscal year 2009 and continue to completion in fourth quarter fiscal year 2010.

Procurement Profile:	FY2008	FY2009
Quantity:	0	70
Developer/Manufacturer:	TBD	